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45989
T-85/T-94
Russian

[Embossed Seal of the USSR]

Moscow, October 23, 1962

Mr. President:

I have just received your letter, and have also acquainted myself with the text of your speech of October 22 regarding Cuba.

I must say frankly that the measures indicated in your statement constitute a serious threat to peace and to the security of nations. The United States has openly taken the path of grossly violating the United Nations Charter, the path of violating international norms of freedom of navigation on the high seas, the path of aggressive actions both against Cuba and against the Soviet Union.

The statement by the Government of the United States of America can only be regarded as undisguised interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Cuba, the Soviet Union and other states. The United Nations Charter and international norms give no right to any state to institute in international waters the inspection of vessels bound for the shores of the Republic of Cuba.

And naturally, neither can we recognize the right of the United States to establish control over armaments which are necessary for the Republic of Cuba to strengthen its defense capability.

We reaffirm that the armaments which are in Cuba, regardless of the classification to which they may belong, are intended solely for defensive purposes in order to secure the Republic of Cuba against the attack of an aggressor.

His Excellency
John Kennedy.

Moscow, October 23, 1962

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I must say frankly that the measures indicated in your statement constitute a serious threat to peace and to the security of nations. The United States has openly taken the path of grossly violating the United Nations Charter, the path of violating international norms of freedom of navigation on the high seas, the path of aggressive actions both against Cuba and against the Soviet Union.

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His Excellency
John Kennedy,
President of the United States of America

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Declassification
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(U) or (E)
By: [Signature] NARS, Date 5/22/24

My 2.15 min 11/14/62

I hope that the United States Government will display wisdom and renounce the actions pursued by you, which may lead to catastrophic consequences for world peace.

The viewpoint of the Soviet Government with regard to your statement of October 22 is set forth in a Statement of the Soviet Government, which is being transmitted to you through your Ambassador at Moscow.

[s] N. Khrushchev

N. Khrushchev

TRANSLATION FOLLOWS

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

10/23
EYES ONLY

32

Action

SS

Info

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1042, OCTOBER 23, 5 PM

Control: 17195

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

11:56 AM

NIACT

ELITE

POLICY

EYES ONLY

EMBTel 1041

EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS OF KHRUSHCHEV'S LETTER OF OCTOBER 23 TO PRESIDENT. KUZNETSOV INFORMED ME LETTER WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED "FOR TIME BEING."

BEGIN TEXT. MR. PRESIDENT.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, AND HAVE ALSO ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH TEXT OF YOUR SPEECH OF OCTOBER 22 REGARDING CUBA.

I SHOULD SAY FRANKLY THAT MEASURES OUTLINED IN YOUR STATEMENT REPRESENT SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY OF PEOPLES. UNITED STATES HAS OPENLY TAKEN PATH OF GROSS VIOLATION OF CHARTER OF UNITED NATIONS, PATH OF VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON HIGH SEAS, PATH OF AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS BOTH AGAINST CUBA AND AGAINST SOVIET UNION.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES AMERICA CANNOT BE EVALUATED IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN AS NAKED INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF CUBAN REPUBLIC, SOVIET UNION, AND OTHER STATES. CHARTER OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS DO NOT GIVE RIGHT TO

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

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ICRC Set 10/11/73

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(F), (1)

BY: [signature] NARS, Date 10/11/71

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-2- 1042, OCTOBER 23, 5 PM FROM MOSCOW

ANY STATE WHATSOEVER TO ESTABLISH IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONTROL OF VESSELS BOUND FOR SHORES OF CUBAN REPUBLIC.

IT IS SELF-UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ALSO CANNOT RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER ARMAMENTS ESSENTIAL TO REPUBLIC OF CUBA FOR STRENGTHENING OF ITS DEFENSIVE CAPACITY.

WE CONFIRM THAT ARMAMENTS NOW ON CUBA, REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION TO WHICH THEY BELONG, ARE DESTINED EXCLUSIVELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES, IN ORDER TO SECURE CUBAN REPUBLIC FROM ATTACK OF AGGRESSOR.

I HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES WILL SHOW PRUDENCE AND RENOUNCE ACTIONS PURSUED BY YOU, WHICH COULD LEAD TO CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT WORLD.

VIEWPOINT OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO YOUR STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 22 IS SET FORTH IN STATEMENT OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS BEING CONVEYED TO YOU THROUGH YOUR AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW.

/S/ N. KHRUSHCHEV. END TEXT.

ORIGINAL OF LETTER BEING AIRPOUCHED TODAY.

KOHLER

DT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 10/23/62 11:05 AM WVC

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